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victims and also to the Government of India, particularly the Finance and Defence Ministries, for their immediate response to our call for assistance by way of rescue ships, I.A.F. planes and helicopters without which it would not have been possible to restore normally so speedily and so satisfactorily.

I am also very happy to note the spontaneous and liberal flow of assistance from people and organisations all over the country and even from friendly nations like the United States of America, Canada, Australia, etc., both in cash and in kind. I wish to express my gratitude to all these persons and institutions and assure them that the contributions made by them will be put to the very best use possible in the interests of the affected victims.

(2) POLICE FIRING ON STUDENTS OF SCOTT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE,
NAGERCOIL.

Sri S. MADHAVAN :	} Called the attention of the
Sri M. V. KARIVENGADAM :	
Sri R. PONNAPPA NADAR :	
Sri A. KUNJAN NADAR :	

Hon. Chief Minister to the Police firing on the students of the Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, the reasons therefor, the consequences thereof and the action taken by the Government.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the firing incident at Nagercoil on 2nd December 1964 had its origin in the earlier incidents in the village of Thuthoor. On the morning of 26th November 1964, Sri Veluswami, probationary Sub-Inspector of Kollengode left his station to investigate a case of theft of an avenue tree at Chengavillay. After enquiring into this matter, he proceeded to Thuthoor village which is seven miles from Kollengode Police station. The object of this visit was to question one Kanaga Nadar, a student of Pius XI High School, who was alleged to have sent petitions against the Sub-Inspector. In the course of this enquiry, he assaulted Kanaga Nadar in the open street. This infuriated the local people who had gathered round the scene and they became restive. As the crowd gathered the situation began to take a serious turn. The Headmaster of the Pius XI High School who lived closely, realised the danger as the Sub-Inspector was running and took the Sub-Inspector and the constable into his house. In the meantime the crowd had become very large and angry and surrounded the Headmaster's house. They did not allow the Sub-Inspector and constable to come out. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Thuckalay, who got information of the incident, sent a Police party to the spot in the evening and rescued the Sub-Inspector and the constable. The Sub-Inspector then arrested the Headmaster and some teachers who were in the crowd and took them to Kulithurai Police station. It is alleged that at Kulithurai, the Headmaster and his Assistants

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were assaulted by the Police. The next day, they were marched handcuffed along a two mile route and produced before the Magistrate. The highhanded conduct of the Sub-Inspector must have caused great resentment among the teachers, students and the people of the area, with repercussions in other parts of the District.

2. On 2nd December 1964, the students of the Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, planned to take out a procession to mark their sympathy with the victims of the Thuthoor incident. Anticipating trouble, an order under section 30 (2) of the Police Act prohibiting processions and meetings had been promulgated earlier. The Deputy Superintendent of Police with a reserve party rushed to the spot and appealed to the students to disperse and also informed them of the prohibitory order. This had no effect and on the contrary, they started pelting stones at the Police party. After repeated warnings, the Deputy Superintendent of Police ordered the use of tear gas. Even this had no effect. He then ordered a mild cane charge. But the students continued to pelt stones. In the meantime, the Superintendent of Police and the Collector arrived on the scene and the Collector immediately ordered the Police to stop the cane charge. At this time, Naik Ananthappan who got separated from the main party and was badly stoned, fired one round on his own accord without orders from his superiors. This injured two students by name Gabriel and Muthiah.

3. On receipt of information of the above incident the Government directed the Inspector-General of Police to proceed to Nagercoil and conduct an on the spot enquiry. As a result of the enquiry, the Inspector-General came to the conclusion that the trouble in the District, which culminated in the firing incident was sparked off by the gross misbehaviour of the Sub-Inspector Sri Veluswami. He also confirmed that Naik Ananthappan had opened fire without specific orders. He placed both these officers under suspension. The Inspector-General of Police was also of the view that there were lapses on the part of the supervisory officers, namely the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Thuckalay and the Superintendent of Police, Kanyakumari. He ordered their immediate transfer out of the District.

4. The Collector had ordered the Revenue Divisional Officer to conduct a magisterial enquiry. The Revenue Divisional Officer has since submitted his report to Government.

5. After careful consideration of the Inspector-General's report and the report of the Revenue Divisional Officer the Government have passed the following orders:—

(a) Sri Veluswami, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kollengode, who acted in a high handed manner and who is now under suspension should be punished departmentally.

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(b) The Police Officers, who were responsible for having handcuffed and marched the teachers along the road should be punished departmentally.

(c) The case registered against the headmaster and teachers of Thoothoor High School in Crime No. 698 of 1964 under Sections 120 (b), 147, 341 and 353, I.P.C., of the Kulithurai Police station should be withdrawn.

(d) The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Thuckalay, who failed to exercise proper control over the situation should be dealt with departmentally.

(e) The case registered against the students of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, in Crime No. 624 of 1964 of Vadaseri Police station for defying the prohibitory order should be withdrawn in view of the mitigating circumstances in their favour.

(f) The Revenue Divisional Officer in his report has found that Naik Ananthappan opened fire without the orders of his superiors and therefore his action was not justified. The Government have accepted the findings of the Revenue Divisional Officer and have been ordered the prosecution of Naik Ananthappan.

(g) It has been noticed that the Superintendent of Police failed to act promptly in dealing with the situation in the district. Departmental action is being taken against him.

(h) The Government have, as a token of their sympathy to the students injured in the firing, ordered the payment of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 3,000 to Sri Gabriel and Sri Muthiah respectively as compensation.

6. On a perusal of the considered findings of the Revenue Divisional Officer and the report of the Inspector-General of Police the Government are in no doubt about the facts of the case. There is clear admission of the lapses committed by the Subordinate Police Officers. There is also evidence that some of the higher Police officers did not rise up to the occasion adequately. In a Police Force of about 30,000 spread out all over the State, it is possible that on some occasions, the standards of behaviour and efficiency at the lower levels are not up to the mark. The Government have taken cognizance of the lapses and initiated appropriate action against them. I would like to make mention here of the fact that one of the aggrieved in the Thoothoor incident has filed a private criminal complaint against the Police officers concerned. The Government will not defend the accused in this case and it is expected that the matter will be completely thrashed out in Court. In the circumstances the Government do not see any reason for a further enquiry in the matter.

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(3) POLICE FIRING ON REFUGEES IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

SRI S. MADHAVAN : Sir, I call attention of the Hon. Chief Minister to the Police firing on the refugees in the refugee camp, Coimbatore, the reasons for the same and the action taken by Government.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the information available with the Government, the following are the facts about the shooting incident at the East Pakistan Refugee Camp, Sangapur, Coimbatore.

Eighty-three families of the East Pakistan Refugees consisting of 344 members are accommodated at the Sangapur camp which is four miles away from Coimbatore town. On 13th December 1964 there were four Police constables on duty at the Police out-post at the camp. It is said that an Armed Reserve Police constable who was on patrol duty attempted to misbehave with a woman inmate of the camp and when the woman raised an alarm, he ran away and took shelter inside the Police out-post. About 70-80 refugees who came chasing the Police constable surrounded the Police out-post and attacked the sentry Police constable with stones and brickbats and also attempted to snatch his musket. The sentry was injured on the forehead and his finger fractured. He appealed to the crowd to desist from pelting stones and disperse calmly, but as they did not pay any heed, he had to open fire in self-defence. Seven rounds were fired, of which one misfired. One of the refugees by name Jagadish Chandra Mallick was killed and another by name Kanai Rishi Das was severely injured. On receipt of information the Superintendent of Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Immediate arrangements were made to remove the injured refugee and Police constable to the hospital for treatment. They are progressing well. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Coimbatore, who conducted the inquest over the dead body returned a verdict that death was due to bullet injuries. As required by the Government instructions, a Magisterial enquiry was conducted by the Executive First Class Magistrate, Coimbatore, and his report is awaited.

According to the Police constable who is alleged to have misbehaved with the woman inmate, he had only tried to pacify a child by applying ink to its scalded hand and his gesture had been misunderstood by the woman and on her complaint, her husband assaulted him. The Inspector-General of Police after an on the spot enquiry placed him under suspension pending further enquiry.

After examining the report on the Magisterial enquiry, the Government will take necessary action in the matter.

திரு. இரா. நெடுஞ்செழியன் : கனம் அவைத் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த அறிக்கைகள் நீண்டு இருக்கிற காரணத்தால், முக்கியமாக புயல் பற்றிய அறிக்கை மன்ற உறுப்பினர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் கிடைக்க வழி செய்தால் நலமாக இருக்கும்.

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கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : புயல் பற்றிய அறிக்கை “ஸைக்னோஸ்டைல்” செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதை இப்போது கொடுக்கலாம்.

VI.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 18th January 1965 has decided upon the following programme for the present sittings of the Assembly :—

(18th January 1965) Monday ... Governor's Address.

(19th January 1965) Tuesday ... (i) Government Motion—Election of a Member to the Committee on Estimates for the year 1964-65 in the vacancy caused by the death of Sri R. S. Veerappa Chettiar.

(ii) Presentation of the Third Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1964-65.

(iii) Discussion on Governor's Address.

(iv) Consideration and passing of the Madras Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1965.

(20th January 1965) Wednesday ... Discussion on the Governor's Address—cont.

(21st January 1965) Thursday ... (i) General discussion on the Third Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1964-65 and Voting of Demands for Grants for further expenditure for 1964-65 and introduction of Appropriation Bill.

(ii) Consideration and passing of Government Bills.

(iii) Government Motion—Approval of the proposal to issue the notification under the first proviso to Explanation IV to clause (40) of section 3 of the Madras Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1961.